



Dystopian world of the future

1984 – The Concepts

Term 3 Focus

Concepts

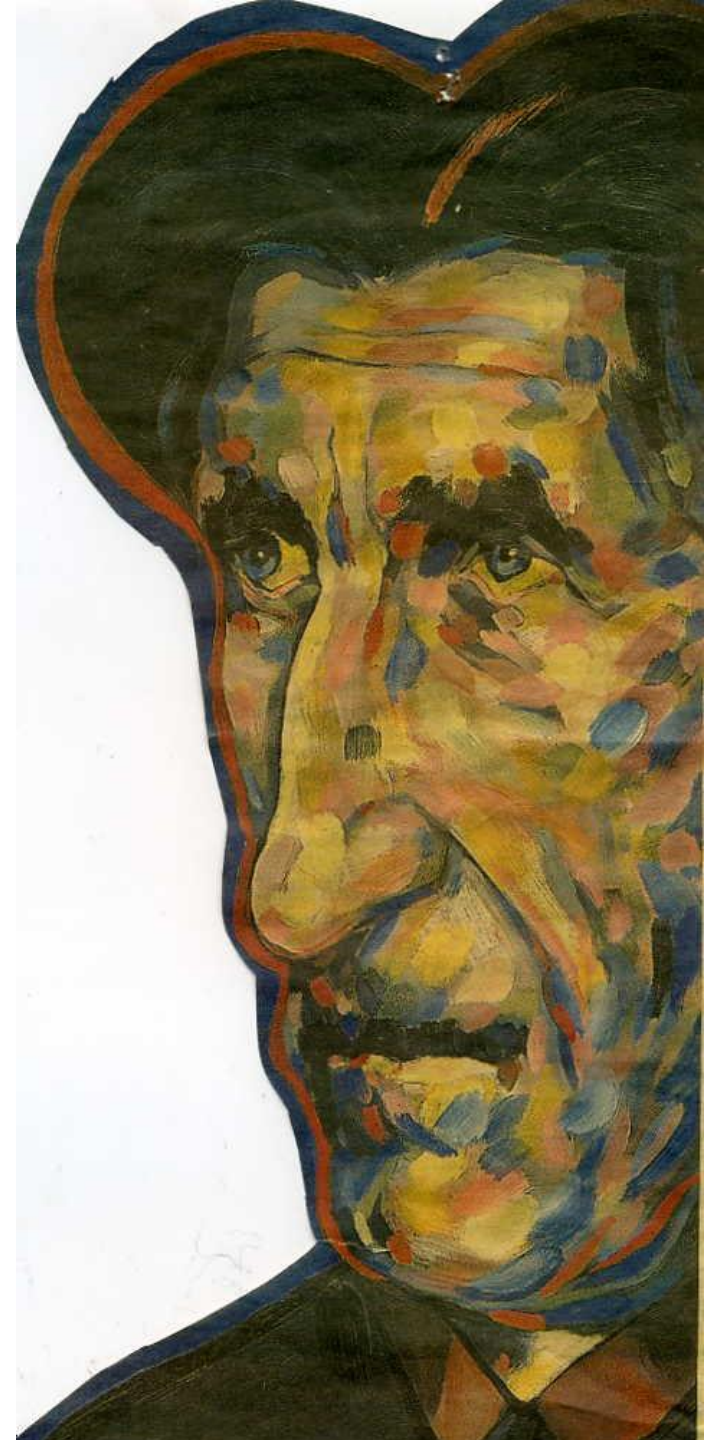
- **Contextualisation:** How the cultural, historical, personal and social context and times influence the way what and how we compose a text and how we respond to a text.
- **Representation through satire:** How a composer uses textual features and details to satirically represent society and its flaws.

Key learning ideas

- The influence of context on representation and meaning
- The language features of satire in dystopian texts
- The structure and features of a critical essay

Orwell

- Eric Arthur Blair (1903-1950)
- Joined Indian Imperial Police in Burma – 1922-1927: Resented oppression of Imperialism - *“It is curious, but till that moment I had never realised what it means to destroy a healthy, conscious man.”*
- Lived amongst the poor
- Democratic socialist
- *1984* originally called *Last Man in Europe* started in 1943 before *Animal Farm*
- Fought for the Spanish government against Francisco Franco’s Nationalist uprising in 1937
- *“Liberty is telling people what they do not want to hear.”*



Literary Influences

- Somerset Maugham
- Jack London's *The Iron Heel*
- Charles Dickens
- Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*
- Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*

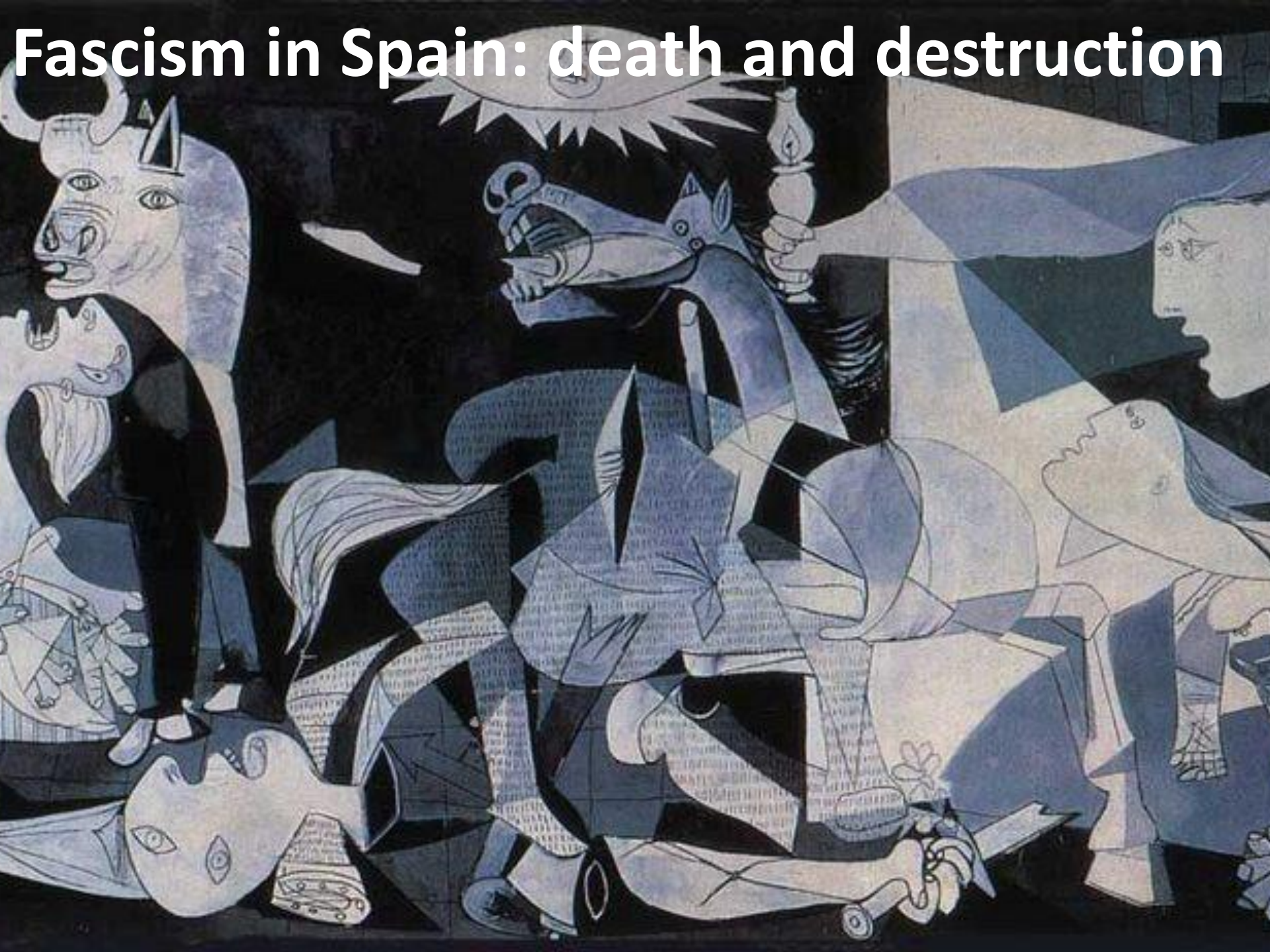


GULLIVER'S TRAVELS
JONATHAN SWIFT



- 1930's Depression
- Experienced what it was like to be oppressed and poor

Fascism in Spain: death and destruction





Rise of dictators

1949: Dawn of the nuclear age and Cold War



"The Spanish war and other events in 1936–37 turned the scale and thereafter I knew where I stood. Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism and for democratic socialism, as I understand it."

— From the essay "Why I Write"

<http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/wi>
[w/english/e_wiw](#)

“First I spent five years in an unsuitable profession (the Indian Imperial Police, in Burma), and then I underwent poverty and the sense of failure. This increased my natural hatred of authority and made me for the first time fully aware of the existence of the working classes, and the job in Burma had given me some understanding of the nature of imperialism: but these experiences were not enough to give me an accurate political orientation. Then came Hitler, the Spanish Civil War, etc. By the end of 1935 I had still failed to reach a firm decision.”

Satire

- A criticism of society and humanity – seeks to expose our shortcomings
- Relies essentially on irony as its main weapon of attack
- Wit, humour, hyperbole, ambiguity, understatement



*As with a moral View design'd
To cure the Vices of Mankind:
His vein, ironically grave,
Expos'd the Fool, and lash'd the Knave.*

.....

*Yet, Malice never was his Aim;
He lash'd the Vice but spar'd the Name.
No Individual could resent,
Where Thousands equally were meant.
His Satyr points at no Defect,
But what all Mortals may correct. . . .*

(ll. 313-16, 459-64) Jonathan Swift

*Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own, which is the chief reason for that kind of reception it meets in the world, and that so very few are offended with it” Jonathan Swift, preface to *The Battle of the Books*.*

Dystopia

- A dark, nihilistic view of the world
- Oppressive authoritarian control
- Utopia: Latin for no world
- Postmodern view of a world without hope
- Set in future but resembles the time it is composed in
- Warning against: the distortion of the truth; abuse of technology; power of governments; loss of individual freedom; conformity

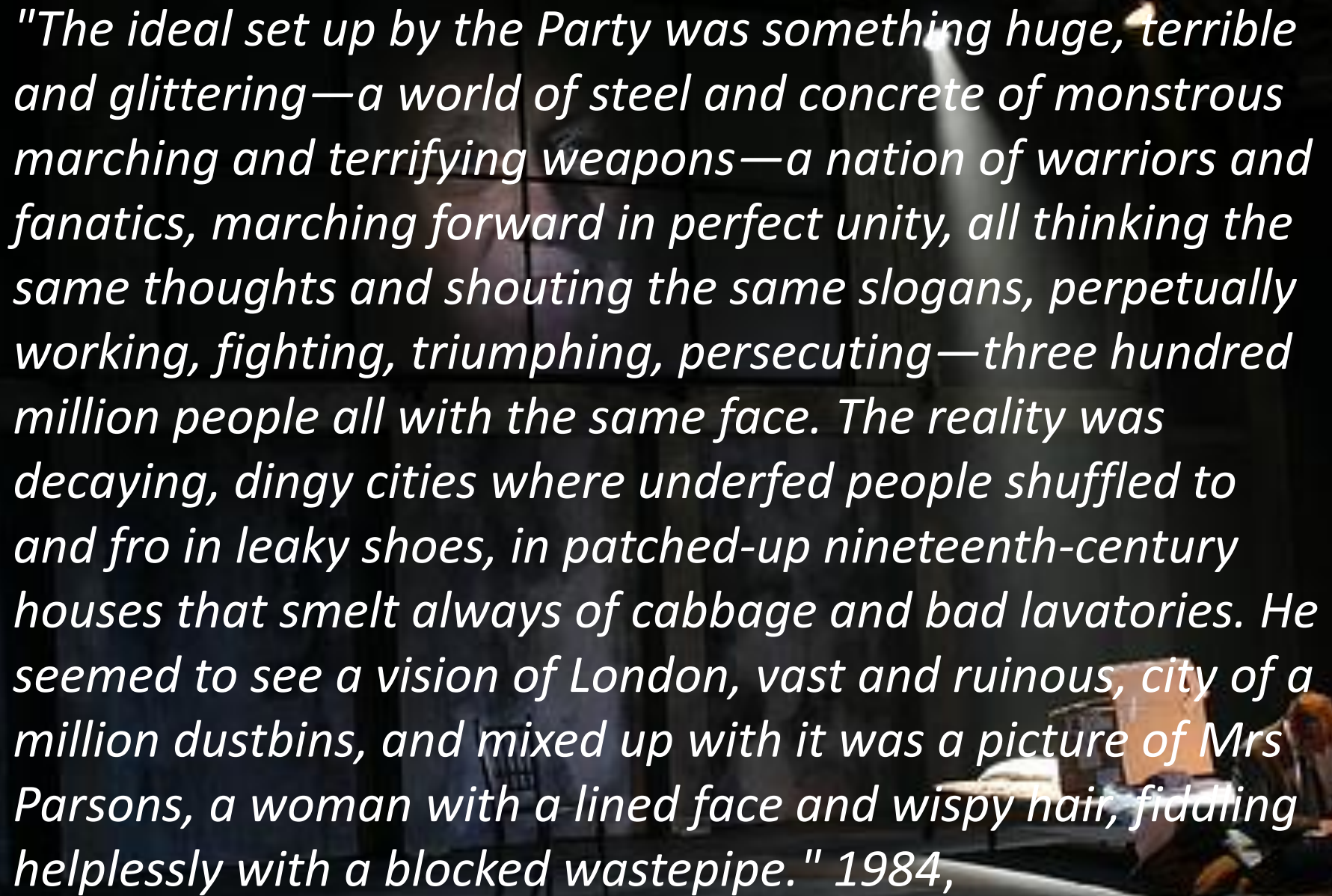


“I saw history being written not in terms of what happened but of what ought to have happened, according to the party ; this kind of thing is frightening to me. If a leader says of such-and-such an event that it never happened - well, it never happened. If he says that two and two are five -well, two and two are five,” George Orwell.

Setting

- **Oceania:** N and S.America, Britain, Australia, S.Africa
- **Eurasia:** Russia took control of Western and Eastern Europe
- **Eastasia:** China, Japan and other Asian countries
- All three powers vying for control of Middle East and Northern Africa
- *1984* is set in Oceania, which includes the United Kingdom known as Airstrip One. UK has been through civil war.





"The ideal set up by the Party was something huge, terrible and glittering—a world of steel and concrete of monstrous marching and terrifying weapons—a nation of warriors and fanatics, marching forward in perfect unity, all thinking the same thoughts and shouting the same slogans, perpetually working, fighting, triumphing, persecuting—three hundred million people all with the same face. The reality was decaying, dingy cities where underfed people shuffled to and fro in leaky shoes, in patched-up nineteenth-century houses that smelt always of cabbage and bad lavatories. He seemed to see a vision of London, vast and ruinous, city of a million dustbins, and mixed up with it was a picture of Mrs Parsons, a woman with a lined face and wispy hair, fiddling helplessly with a blocked wastepipe." 1984,

Chapter 7

Setting

- 1984 = 1948
- Propaganda
- Censorship
- Power, paranoia and control
- Goldstein = Trotsky
- The Ministry of Truth building modelled on the London University building used during World War II by the Ministry of Information



Setting

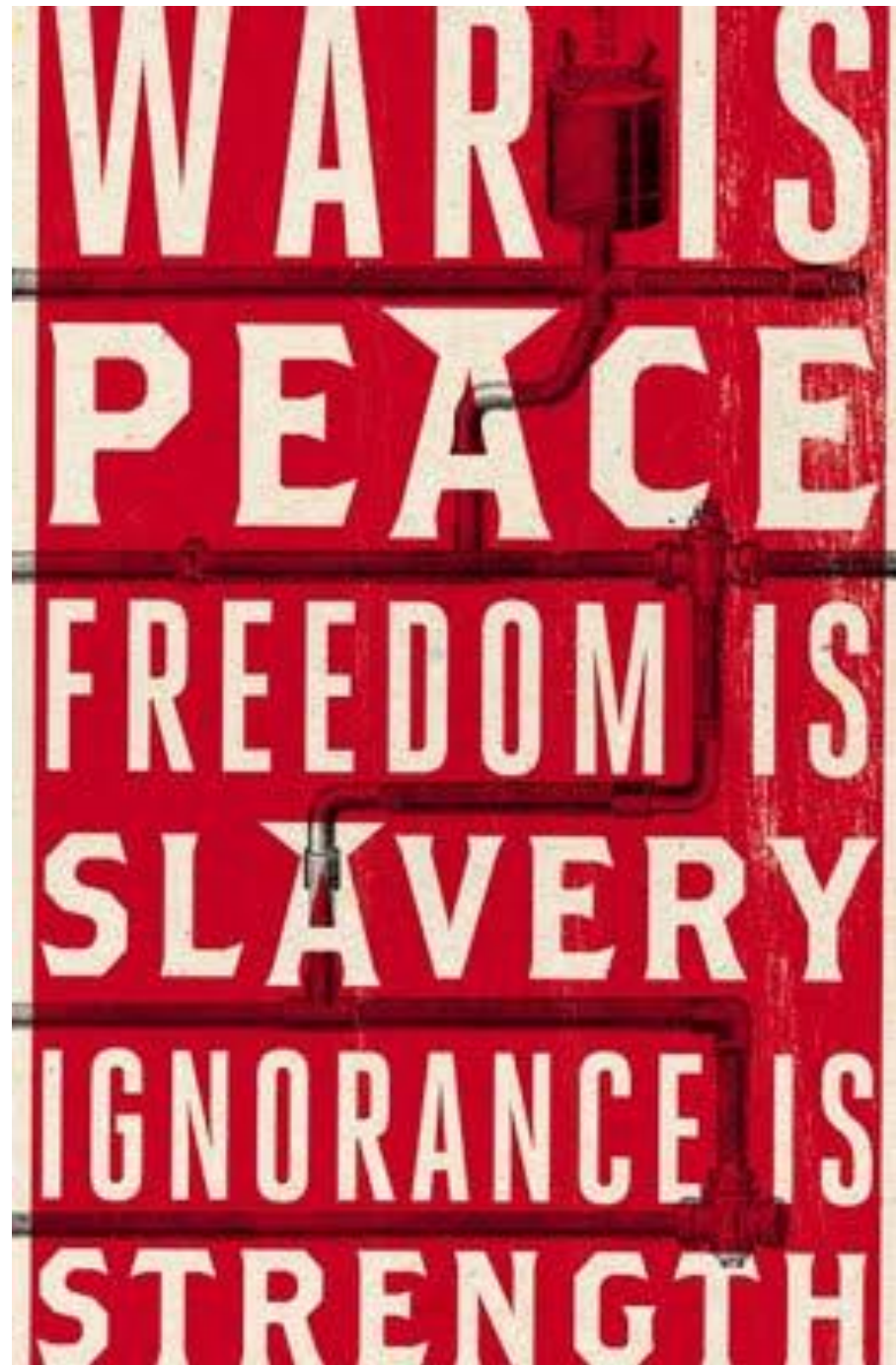
- Leadership worship:
Big brother = Stalin
- Joycamps = Gulags
- Thought Police =
Gestapo or NKVD
- Daily exercise = Nazi
propaganda videos
- Youth League = Hitler
Youth or Young
Pioneers

*"The broad mass of
the nation ... will
more easily fall victim
to a big lie than to a
small one" Adolf
Hitler, 1925 - Mein
Kampf.*

*"And if all others accepted
the lie which the party
imposed-if all records told
the same tale-then the lie
passed into history and
became the truth" 1984.*

“Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship. The object of persecution is persecution. The object of torture is torture. The object of power is power.”

1984, Chapter 3



1984

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4rBDUJTnNU>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hATC_2I1wZE&feature=related

